

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 5/4/20: Air France Returning; Airport Gets \$71-million; Hurricane Season May Start with a Bang; Big Delays at Royal Palm & Flamingo; Atrium Closes 'Til October; "No Risk" Reservations at Orient Beach Hotel; Lockdown; French Side Restaurant Status; Anguilla; Yoda; Three Months Free w/ SkyMed Annual Renewals Now; [37 SXM News Stories This Week]

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Vol. 3, #1247 --- Monday, May 4, 2020
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



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Member News

St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News

*St. Maarten & St. Martin's Most Relied-Upon Source
of Tourist-Oriented News & Information*

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Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com

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Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member.

Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by about 340,000 people around the world...

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This narrow format is easily readable on all mobile devices. Scroll down for this week's news.

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

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- *Get 6 Months Free SkyMed Protection & Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions Protection; New Military Discounts, Too, for Americans & Canadians*

 -- *Please Help Us Continue to Help You...*
 #####
 -- *Get SkyMed BEFORE You Need It*
 #####

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#####
- *SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic*

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37 News Stories This Week

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

Not in Archive

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Not in Archive.

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm>

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

<https://www.facebook.com/StMaartenTimesharing/>

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format:

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive;list=sxmweeklynews>

Check Out Our Linked-In "St. Maarten and St. Martin Travelers" Group (Free; Timeshare Focus):

www.linkedin.com

Get a growing group of about 300 SXM-focused island discounts and other SXM-related benefits through JMB Website Supporters membership:

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Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

Not a member yet? See http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members read *From JMB* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

1. US Airlines Requiring Face Masks; Our Poll

All major US-based airlines serving SXM have now announced plans to require the use of face masks by all

passengers on all flights — in most cases, effective this week. The airlines will have a highly limited number of face masks on hand for those who arrive without them, but you are well advised to bring a face mask with you. If you don't have one and are flying anywhere, go on the Internet to find out how to make masks from socks, T-shirts, or bandannas, all of which you likely already have.

Before the first airline — JetBlue — announced its plan to require facemasks last week, we had already posted a poll in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) asking for readers to answer yes or no about whether they favor the requirement for passengers to wear masks. The result was a lopsided landslide in favor of masks. Voting is still open; go to our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) to vote, then comment and see why people voted as they did.

2. Air France Saying It Resumes SXM Flights Mid-June

In a possible sign of things to come, Air France has now announced that it plans to resume flights to SXM in mid June. Of course, the decision and the date are subject to change — but airlines don't *usually* make announcements like this unless they have some kind of clearance, even tentatively, from the countries they're serving.

Previously, Air Caraibes had announced its plans to resume flights from Paris to St. Maarten starting July 3. Will this happen? Stay tuned.

3. Airport Gets \$71-million

In the seemingly endless post-Irma soap opera that has been the story of the airport's attempts to get the insurance proceeds owed to it, the airport is finally receiving the rest of \$71 million due.

The bad news: there are still obstacles that prevent the airport from completing long-delayed repairs expeditiously -- particularly the Covid 19 Pandemic and the social distancing requirements related to it that directly impact construction activities. In any case, the airport currently expects everything to restart at full speed toward the end of this year, and finish some time in 2022 — almost 5 years after the hurricane.

The airport has vowed to get more robust hurricane insurance and it reportedly changed insurance companies quite some time ago. Planners for the airport have ensured that the terminal is significantly more robust than before, able to withstand another storm as powerful as Irma should that dire circumstance occur. Irma delivered sustained winds of 185 mph to the island, destroying the airport's roof and much of its contents. For many months after the storm, all terminal functions were handled in tents adjacent to the east end of the terminal building.

As always, we will continue to bring you updates on the future of the SXM Airport terminal, progress in restoring it, and news about terminal contents and services.

More information on this story is [here](#).

4. AA Retiring Multiple Fleets of Planes

American Airlines is accelerating the retirement of many of its older aircraft, reducing the number of aging planes in its fleet and consolidating on a few models, which will make maintenance easier for the airline.

AA also anticipates the return of the beleaguered 737 Max aircraft to its fleet possibly as early as this summer, which will also help it.

The older aircraft were initially to have been retired by late this year, but reduced demand caused by the coronavirus Pandemic has in part led to the decision to move those aircraft retirements earlier.

Here are [details](#).

5. Hurricane Season Starts 6/1; Expect It To Be Long,

Busy

The 2020 hurricane season starts in less than a month, on June 1, and will end November 30.

As previously reported here, [Crown Weather](#) chief meteorologist Rob Lightbown has reported to his subscribers that the season is expected to be long and "very busy." In fact, Rob has reported that things could get an early start *this* month, with storminess possibly percolating around mid to late May. For that information, please see our [SXM Weekly News PDF Archives](#).

If you are in an area that is ever threatened by or hit by hurricanes or any tropical systems, we urge you to visit [CrownWeather.com](#) and subscribe to Rob's remarkably inexpensive private forecasting service. In our opinion, he delivers the most accurate, timely forecasting information available. His website, open to subscribers, provides a wealth of information year-round on all aspects of weather throughout North America and the Caribbean: [crownweather.com](#) has our highest recommendation.

Rob says he is particularly concerned about the possibility of development because of the high water temperatures already in evidence in the tropical Atlantic. Other conditions may make it possible for long-track storms forming near the Cape Verde islands off the coast of Africa to make it across the tropical Atlantic to the Caribbean earlier than September, a matter of possible concern to the entire Caribbean.

Our Weather Center on our main website, [everythingSXM.com](#), also will carry in real time the latest watches and warnings for any storms developing through the entire season, as well as a number of satellite images automatically updated around-the-clock plus radar loops. Major developments will also be posted at once by us and by Crown Weather in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

6. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, [www.everythingsxm.com](#), and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

The four sources of current weather info, beyond the two above, are:

1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.

2) Our "Weather" page at [www.everythingsxm.com](#) -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.

3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.

4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see [www.island92.com](#). They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.

5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

N. B.: *Again...Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.*

Download your own NHC Hurricane Chart:

Years ago, before we were all saturated with weather information from cable TV to local (redundant and repetitive) news and forecasts plus weather updates and bulletins on our smart phones, gas stations and television stations offered printed hurricane tracking charts so people at home could try to figure out for themselves whether they were about to get slammed by the latest hurricane.

We haven't seen hurricane tracking chart handouts for years, but if you want one they are easy to get.

The exact charts used by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are available for download from the NHC [here](#). Select "Atlantic" and you're good to go. You can print out the chart and use it repeatedly, or simply print a bunch of them and use one for each storm that may approach an area of interest -- like, SXM. Bear in mind that this hurricane season may well be frontloaded — so you might want to print a few of these now and *not* save doing that for later.

More stories are below.

Changing Your Email Address?

***Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email
and Sign Up Your New One
for your SXM Weekly News subscription
Quickly and Easily
at our Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com***

7. Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart

Blank hurricane tracking charts similar to those that have been used by the National Hurricane Center for many years are now available for download [here](#) (that's the NHC download site). (Also noted above.)

8. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

SkyMed Travel offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 115% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for Weekly News readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number there to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.

You won't be disappointed.

Not a SkyMed member? Learn more about it at www.skymed.com/jmb, then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-747-8281 any weekday. Thanks...

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas Etc.

9. Royal Palm, Flamingo Delay Reopening Until Spring '21

In a move which has immediately infuriated thousands of Diamond Resorts timeshare owners at both Royal Palm beach resort and Flamingo Beach Resort, Diamond has announced that the long-delayed reopening of both resorts will not now occur until *at least* April 2021.

The fact that it has taken more than three and a half years for the resort to get to the stage where it is still announcing delays of reconstruction post hurricane Irma, in and of itself, is enough to make timeshare owners angry. The resort had previously said that it expected reconstruction to be completed in July of this year, at which point the resort would put the final touches on the rebuilt properties and be able to open several weeks later. It had also reaffirmed the July date in recent announcements.

Now, blaming Covid, the resort says it will take another nine months to finish beyond the previously announced July date — if that even happens.

"The math doesn't add up," one disgusted timeshare owner told us. "The whole thing stinks. The whole Sonesta Maho complex, which I think is bigger than Royal Palm and Flamingo put together, was open a year ago last winter and these guys give us BS about Covid being responsible for many more months of delays. Like I said, it doesn't add up."

We conducted a poll in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), offering readers the ability to express their opinions and add comments. Many expressed major unhappiness with Diamond Resorts.

Here is the text of the Diamond Resorts announcement:

"As we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic together, the health and safety of our owners and team members has remained our top priority. Nearly every industry has been impacted by the crisis and unfortunately, we have been forced to make some difficult decisions, including adjusting the reopening timeline for our resorts in St. Maarten.

"The St. Maarten government has issued strict social distancing measures, including ordering all construction projects to cease work until further notice. Because of these orders, we have been forced to stop all reconstruction work at both Royal Palm Beach Resort and Flamingo Beach Resort.

"With many unknown factors, including how long the government orders will last, the availability of materials on the island and the 2020 hurricane season, we cannot determine a definitive reopening date. At this time, we estimate the resorts will reopen in spring 2021. However, we caution that date could change based on the unknown factors.

"We know this situation is not ideal and appreciate your understanding.

"We are eager to complete work on the resorts and welcome everyone home for a much-deserved vacation. We will continue to follow all government mandates and guidelines, and hope to have a positive update for you as soon as work resumes.

"In the meantime, we want to thank you for your continued support during this unprecedented time. Our Owner Services Team is available to answer any questions you may have and is available anytime by calling 1.800.463.7256."

There was no information about charges or compensatory weeks for owners for time during which the resorts will stay closed. If we receive more on those, we'll publish it. We will also happily publish a cross section of any further comments we receive from Diamond or from Diamond SXM timeshare owners. Address them to support@jmbcommunications.com. Do NOT send them as a reply to this newsletter.

10. Festiva Atrium Resort Closes Until October '20

Festiva Atrium resort a few weeks ago announced that it was letting go all but three of its employees, a move which reportedly was announced without advance word to Atrium employee union representatives.

Now, the resort has announced that it is closing until October of this year.

We have not heard what it is doing, if anything, for Atrium timeshare owners who will not be able to use weeks between now and October — if indeed it does reopen then. Atrium is blaming Covid for the closure — in this case, no doubt an accurate claim since virtually no one currently is traveling, though many want to return to the island as quickly as possible to help the island's economy and its people.

Here is the text of the Festiva Atrium announcement:

Atrium Beach Resort and Spa

Greetings Atrium Beach Resort and Spa Owner,

"With an unwavering dedication to the health and safety of our guests and employees as we closely monitor the latest Coronavirus/COVID19 developments and direction given by State and Federal agencies, including the CDC and WHO; the Atrium Beach Resort and Spa is taking the necessary steps to ensure the wellbeing of all. With this in mind, the Atrium Beach Resort and Spa is temporarily closed. We anticipate re-opening the first week of October. We will continue to monitor CDC and government directives to determine if any adjustment to this anticipated reopening is necessary.

We appreciate your patience as we make this necessary closure.

Kind regards; Atrium Beach Resort and Spa Management & Staff

11. Orient Beach Hotel Offers "No Risk" Reservations

In a move that other hospitality properties on SXM might do well to emulate, Orient Beach Hotel is now offering no-risk reservations from now through most of December. "No risk" is a great idea to attract tourists during low season (and during the summer, which is normally not exactly low season) when SXM needs the business. Although no dates for the resumption of regular flights to SXM have yet been announced, at some point they will be and when that happens many tourists who want to help the island will flock to it. Offering no-risk reservations is a great way for Orient Beach Hotel to lure them to go to that property.

Here are the details of the offer, from hotel Director Florence Bernard:

Dear friends,

We receive a lot of messages inquiring about reservations during this uncertain period.

We believe it is important to have something to look forward to and we want to make it easy for you.

If you want to plan a trip until Dec 23rd, you can make a "no risk" reservation with us:

- You can change/cancel your reservation up to 72h prior to the arrival date without any fee
- No deposit
- 30% discount on all room types

We are connected 7 days a week to assist you: contact@orientbeachhotel.com

www.orientbeachhotel.com

12. 2021 Rentals Available Now at EverythingSXM.com

SXM timeshare owners who are members of JMB Website Supporters have begun to post 2021 timeshare rentals on our main SXM website, everythingSXM.com. Much more information about available rentals is on our timeshare rentals and sales page on that site. It is certainly not too early to start making reservations for 2021. Also please see the unnumbered story at the beginning of section 3 in this edition of *SXM Weekly News*.

13. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

If you own timeshare weeks that you would like to rent out or sell on our main everythingSXM.com website, you can do it once you become a member of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program. For all the details, go to our main site, everythingSXM.com and click on timeshare rentals in the navigation bar. You'll find the details about posting there. For information about joining JMB Website Supporters, click the page curl on all pages of everythingSXM.com. As a member, you will have access to a growing pallet of about 300 discounts and other

benefits including the ability to post up to 10 ads per year in our rental pages at everythingxsm.com.

The ability to post timeshare rentals on our site is limited to JMB Website Supporters members only, and is not available to any others at any price.

14. Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info

Just before Thanksgiving 2018, working with Arun Jagtiani of Island Real Estate Team, we put together and conducted an SXM Relocation Seminar for dozens of attentive attendees at Emilio's Restaurant at the Emilio Wilson estate near Philipsburg.

Many of you have asked whether it would be possible for you to see video we made of our relocation seminar.

Although we do intend to put on future relocation seminars, the video of our November '18 seminar is available online to anyone interested in buying on SXM, whether for a vacation home, retirement home, income property, or anything else. Lots of outstanding info was communicated during this excellent seminar, and another is now in the early planning stages.

See the video [here](#).

Please check this link to [BrightPath in SXM](#), a company that can help provide very deep and expeditious help in completing residency requirements for people buying a second home, income property, or a new business in SXM, or relocating there. They're located in the Puerta del Sol building opposite Avantika, Simpson Bay, Dutch side. Ask for Vivian Chamas and let her know you heard about BrightPath through Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

15. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

We are working to further increase the already huge number of restaurants, jewelry stores, hotels, and other businesses offering discounts or other incentives to members of our JMB Website Supporters SXM Island Discount Program. As these additions are made, they will be reported in *SXM Weekly News* and will also be noted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which currently offers roughly 300 discounts and other benefits to its thousands of members.

For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, [go here](#).

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

16. If You're a US exPat or Tourist on SXM, Tell the State Dept.

If you're an ex-Pat or tourist from the United States on SXM, please make sure the US State Department knows about it. Visit step.state.gov to receive alerts and ensure that you can be contacted in an emergency.

In an emergency, you should call 1-888-407-4747 from the USA or Canada or call 1-202-501-4444 from overseas or contact the nearest US embassy at travel.state.gov.

Please share this important information with all friends who travel. If they visit SXM, please invite them to join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

17. Dutch Side Lockdown Extended to May 17

The headline says it all, but here is the full text from the government of St. Maarten:

One more week in lockdown

The lockdown will be extended by one (1) more week. The lockdown is now to end on Sunday, May 17.

The lockdown was slated to end on Sunday, May 10.

18. French Side Restaurants May Soon Reopen

In response to a direct appeal from the president of the Collectivite of St. Martin, French Pres. Emmanuel Macron has now said that French side restaurants on the island may soon be allowed to reopen.

Here is that [full story](#).

19. Anguilla Reopens (Sort of)

As virtually every nation around the world continues to cope with the coronavirus Pandemic, Anguilla -- SXM's closest neighbor -- has made a very welcome announcement: that island is about to reopen.

Sort of.

Here is the [full](#) announcement from Anguilla:

The Valley, Anguilla, April 28, 2020 -- H.E. Governor Tim Foy and the Hon. Premier Victor Banks have announced the removal of all regulations restricting movement and gatherings, effective Wednesday, April 29. Testing has now shown that there are no active or suspected cases of Covid-19 in Anguilla, and the Chief Medical Officer advised the Executive Council on April 27 that these restrictions can be safely removed.

This means that churches, places of worship, all retail stores, hair salons and barber shops, accommodation suppliers, gyms and spas, recreational facilities, official lotteries, restaurants and bars can re-open from Wednesday, 29 April.

The Governor and Premier thanked Anguillians for their support in following the restrictions while they were in place, and in bringing about this great achievement. They also cautioned against becoming complacent and asked that everyone continue to practice social distancing. Environmental health officials in Anguilla will be visiting all commercial premises in the coming weeks to check compliance with established environmental health regulations, bearing in mind the importance of good basic hygiene in preventing the spread of all infectious diseases.

The Governor and Premier also noted that these or other restrictions may be re-introduced if circumstances change.

Anguilla's ports will remain closed for passenger movements until the situation outside Anguilla allows for the safe reopening to external traffic. No definitive date has yet been set, but it is unlikely to be before the end of May. A limited number of repatriation flights for foreign nationals will take place this week. These flights -- all of which have been formally requested by overseas governments -- will take place under the same controlled arrangements as those previously implemented. All aircraft will arrive empty, with the aircrew remaining on board so avoiding any contact with ground staff.

The Hon. Premier Victor Banks is painfully aware that there are many Anguillians overseas who wish to return home but cannot because of the current border closure. They are working now to put in place arrangements to enable their safe return, and details will be announced in the coming days. Establishing an on-island capability to reliably test for the virus, expanding quarantine facilities and creating a phased program of returns that will match the island's ability to test and quarantine people are the key requirements that are being addressed.

Illegal boat landings remain the greatest threat to Anguilla's health and security and protecting Anguilla from illegal entry is a top priority for the Government. Coordinated land, sea and air patrols remain in place, and anyone attempting or assisting an illegal crossing will be arrested.

20. Great SXM Article Recommends Top Attractions

SXM's tax income slowed to a trickle after Irma whacked the island in September, 2017, and has never returned to pre-Irma levels. Covid has not helped. Even without Covid, the island has always had a meager promotional budget, no real television advertising in the US or Canada, and it does precious little travel PR.

That's why [this article](#), one of the best we've seen about the island in quite some time (except informative features here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#)), means a lot to the island. Check it out: we think you'll find it very interesting especially since it echoes sentiments we've long expressed here about the same businesses.

21. 5.4 Quake in Puerto Rico...

An earthquake measuring a fairly strong 5.4 on the open-ended Richter scale hit southern Puerto Rico a few days ago, causing a fair amount of damage. According to initial reports, however, there were no significant injuries and no deaths.

The Caribbean is known for earthquakes although most are relatively minor. The last big quake was the one to hit Haiti in 2010, a 7.0 monster, killing approximately 250,000 people and causing about \$8-billion in damage..

22. The Yoda Guy Museum Needs Our Help

Nick Manley is an international celebrity: he is "the Yoda guy" -- the gentleman who designed the character of Yoda for the entire series of Star Wars films. Nick runs "the Yoda Guy Museum" on Front Street in St. Maarten, which is located on the second floor of a building on the ocean side of Front Street a couple of hundred yards east of the center of town.

Without tourism on the island, the museum is suffering and Nick is asking for help from our readers.

Here is Nick's message to all SXM Weekly News readers:

"My friends from the world of entertainment are banding together to create a FUNdraiser for our foundation to fend off closure of The Yoda Guy Movie Exhibit due to the economic crisis. It is an 8 hour ONLINE AND INTERACTIVE movie convention... May 3rd starting at 10.00 a.m. Eastern... in your home and on your phone. Everything from the classic Star Wars trilogy and Disney's Mandalorian to prop and autograph experts and personalities from Face Off! Yoda Guy Movie Exhibit is a St Maarten landmark. As a foundation it is not supported by the stimulus package so surviving until tourists return is very tough. Please support our FUNdraiser to try to avoid closure. \$6.00 donation for 8 hours of entertainment movie personalities. Details and guest bios at <http://STARnetCon.com> or follow the Facebook event page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/649774245843165/> "

Since SXM Weekly News usually begins its three day mailing on Friday night or Saturday (this week, it was Sunday, for our Monday cover date), not all of you will receive this issue in time to participate in the Yoda Guy event. Nonetheless, we would like to ask on behalf of Nick that you look at the materials regardless of that and see if you can't send a few dollars to Nick to help maintain this landmark location on your favorite island. Nick will be grateful as will you when you next visit the Yoda Guy Museum.

Thanks for reading this.

23. Island 92 Needs Help, Too

Island 92 -- our on-air partner in SXM for more than 10 years -- needs your help to stay on the air.

What follows is from Jeffrey Sochrin, "Dr. Soc," Managing Director of Island92:

The impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic touches everyone, and our top priority at Island 92 is that our listeners around the world remain safe and healthy during these difficult times. Please practice social distancing and "STAY

HOME" and be safe! We're in this together and hope you're all doing okay.

We have a tough message to share with all of you today – we're not doing so well . . . We appreciate that you need us during times of crisis - communication is king, and local radio is more important than ever. But we need you, too. Island 92 normally is able to provide you with quality, professional programming and timely reporting of developing events that you need urgently during these challenging times through the support of advertisers. Unfortunately, many of our loyal advertisers have suspended their campaigns due to their temporary closures, and we totally understand and support those decisions. We have done all that we can to survive - we have eliminated all discretionary spending and our devoted staff currently is volunteering just to keep the station on the air for you.

Here is where you can help: You can ensure that Island 92 – and our professional reporting, a vital voice for Sint Maarten – survives. We know times are tough for everyone, so we ask our local and global audience for any amount, every dollar will have an impact! Please help keep Island 92 on the air!

Contributions can be made through PayPal to soc@island92.com. For other methods, simply contact Dr. Soc at that email address, or call +1-786-693-9200 or +1-721-586-6634.

Island 92 has served St. Maarten and the surrounding islands diligently, professionally and with integrity for almost 20 years, and we hope to continue to do so for many more years to come. The current worldwide crisis has hit St. Maarten extremely hard, yet we remain committed to providing accurate and timely information to St. Maarten and the region, along with great ROCK, BLUES & GOOD TIME music!

We can do this together. THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR FAMILY. We appreciate any contribution – Every contribution will have a significant impact, no amount is too small! THANK YOU!

Dr. Soc
Island 92 (91.9) FM
www.island92.com

24. SkyMed Launches Renewal Bonus: Three Months Free

SkyMed has launched a Get Back to Work RENEWAL Special for current owners of SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships. The first wave of the RENEWAL Special is for RENEWALS happening from May 1st to August 31st. SkyMed Members renewing through Jeff Berger during this period will receive an additional 3 month FREE extension to their SkyMed membership.

There will be a Phase II of the Get Back to Work Special dedicated to memberships that have lapsed. We'll have more information on Phase II soon. To renew your SkyMed membership now, call Jeff directly during normal East coast business hours at 508-747-8281, his direct line.

25. Get 6 Months of Free* SkyMed Protection & Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions Protection:

N. B. Please do NOT unsubscribe from this list; doing so will terminate your subscription to SXM Weekly News.

Get Six Months of SkyMed Protection Free* & Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion of Coverage of Pre-Existing Conditions: Get your "66" with SkyMed --

YOUR ROADMAP TO SAFETY =====IMPORTANT TIME-SENSITIVE OFFER=====

SkyMed will host a one hour GO TO MEETING presentation on Wed. May 6 at about 10:45am Pacific time. You may have missed attending a SkyMed presentation event because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now you can attend a very special one hour presentation in the comfort of your own home and earn a terrific bonus in the process.

Watch on your computer and learn about the importance of at home or away protection with a SkyMed membership.

GET your 66 ---

A FIVE year membership plus a 'SIX month EXTRA bonus'!

*THE BONUS perk:

New members signing up for a FIVE Year ULTIMATE within 24 hours of being on the SkyMed GO TO MEETING presentation will receive a SIX month additional bonus. **[Note: you can now also get the free six months by phoning Jeff directly. Once you sign up for the 5-year Ultimate membership through Jeff, you get six months free. Limited time offer ends soon. Call today -- number below.]**

The EXTRA Bonus perk:

Attention new and existing members: If you refer a non member to this upcoming call or future calls you as the member will receive an additional SIX month bonus if your referral purchases a five year plan.

Space is limited -- contact your representative to confirm your meeting today:

SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger

508-747-8281

www.skymed.com/JMB

jeff.berger@skymed.com

Please use the above email address or phone number to contact Jeff directly and reserve your spot in this coming Wednesday's WEBINAR. Email replies to jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com MAY NOT BE SEEN. Thank you.

Important: If you buy now and won't be traveling for three months or more, the 90-day exclusion of coverage on pre-existing conditions will finish once you travel -- a truly big deal. You also get a 30-day free look on SkyMed memberships. Reserve your spot in the 5/6 webinar TODAY and pick up that unique SkyMed peace-of-mind.

26. Help Us Continue to Publish SXM Weekly News

We need your help to continue to bring you all of the significant tourist-related news from SXM every week, as we have since 1992.

Although SXM Weekly News is free, funding makes it possible. Funding comes from readers joining our **JMB Website Supporters island discount program**, signing up for **SkyMed** (for which we receive commissions), and getting our new **purple sand chair SXM euro ovals** (see story 28). *Our office lights and our computers and phone lines can't stay on without your help.* Every dollar helps. Thank you.

For more on all of this, see our main site at everythingxsm.com. A photo of the oval is in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

27. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

If you're U. S. Military with a DD214, you're able to get a Platinum-Status Military JMB Membership for \$16.99/year, the lowest we ever charge anyone. You get instant Platinum Status which is permanent as long as you're a JMB member plus 300+ SXM discounts and other benefits. All you do is pay for four years to start and renew in four-year

increments (\$67.96). Nobody else pays so little -- our small way of expressing how grateful we all are for your service.

And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day. We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit everythingxsm.com and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership (the page still says Military). We'll also need a DD214 (or other police / fire / nursing ID) with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you all to our new best-of-all JMB Website Supporters Platinum Memberships.

28. 2020 Hurricane Preparedness - Important (Repeat)

Prepared by Rob Lightbown, [Crown Weather Services](#)

I wanted to send these various tips out to you as I know many of you are concerned about how hurricane preparations and decisions may be impacted by COVID-19; especially since it continues to look like a very busy hurricane season coming up. In fact, there are signals in the data that suggest we may see our first tropical system of the season as soon as mid or late May.

- If you don't have flood insurance, consider getting it. If you do have flood insurance, but have been recently laid off or furloughed, check with your agent to see if an extended grace period is available to avoid lapse in coverage.
- If you live in a hurricane evacuation zone & will need to stay in an evacuation shelter, make sure you arrive early as social distancing rules may limit capacity. Also, delays may occur due to medical screenings upon entry.
- Make sure to add disinfectant supplies to your hurricane supply kit. Wherever you evacuate to, you will want to routinely wipe down & disinfect your belongings.
- Plan for your pets!! For public health reasons, many shelters don't allow pets. Whether a shelter allows pets will be shelter-specific. If you plan to evacuate to a hotel, line up a pet friendly hotel. Otherwise look for open pet boarding near your shelter.
- Check with your local government and emergency management officials for the latest hurricane season evacuation guidance. Stay-at-home orders and public health recommendations will evolve. Start local for the latest info on shelters and evacuations.

I will begin sending out regular tropical weather discussions for the Hurricane Season on Friday, May 1 [to Crown Weather Clients -Ed.]. This will not only give you a heads-up on any possible early season tropical activity, but it will also give me a chance to try out some new things when posting our tropical weather discussions, well before things begin to get busy.

Our plans for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season remain the same. First, our discussions and updates will remain the same, although, I'm going to try to post shorter, but more frequent updates when systems are upgraded or when there is a tropical storm or hurricane about to make landfall. In the past, I would rehash/update the entire discussion, which can take an abundant amount of time. So, in addition to the regular long tropical weather discussions that I write, I'm going to try to also send out much shorter updates when needed.

I also still plan on trying video tropical weather discussions & video tropical weather updates. This is something that I have been busy setting up & should be able to do. My thinking is to have both video tropical weather discussions & have a question/answer video session (either I answer your questions live or have you send me your questions to be answered during a video session).

29. Get a Little Bit of SXM in Your Home, Now

[This](#) is our all-new copyrighted purple sand chair SXM Euro Oval. Big shipment just arrived in our Plymouth offices. You can now order them -- they're the successor to our former green "twin palms" SXM Euro Oval.

Price, \$7 each or **THREE for \$15** (multiple orders of three welcome). Pay by PayPal payable to jeff@jmbcommunications.com or by check payable to JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812 USA. INCLUDE YOUR NAME, SHIP-TO ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, & PHONE NUMBER IN YOUR

ORDER. All checks MUST be US dollar checks drawn on US banks. Shipped ONLY to USA & Canada addresses, Put it on your car, on mirrors at home, on smooth-sided luggage, over your husband's mouth (just kidding), etc. Fun item for everyone who loves SXM like YOU do! =====PHONE ORDERING IS NOW AVAILABLE TOO! 508-747-8281, 8am - 8pm EDT daily. Secure line, please leave all required info.

The link at the beginning of this story takes you to our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). If you have not yet joined, do so now; it's a community of SXM fans like you.

30. SkyMed Q&A / FAQ :::::::::: Updated 4/11/20

SkyMed® FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Answers to Common Questions

This document contains general SkyMed information in answer to common questions. SkyMed's services are defined by its Member Services Agreements – plain English documents that tell you what you get and how it works (see much more info below). As always, SkyMed offers a 30-day “Free Look period,” so if for any reason you're not satisfied with your unused SkyMed protection before 30 days have expired, SkyMed will refund your money.

Q1. Does it cover my trip to...?

1. Basic short-term and annual “SkyMed *Takes You Home*®” protection applies throughout the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global Emergency Travel Services (G.E.T.S., a subsidiary of SkyMed) protection is available outside the USA, CANADA, MEXICO, BAHAMAS, BERMUDA, and the CARIBBEAN (the rest of the world), however neither SkyMed nor G.E.T.S. covers trips to nations on the U. S. State Department's then-current “Do Not Travel” list – North Korea, Iran, and Venezuela currently, for example, and several others. Before planning a trip, check that list if you have any question about whether protection is provided for your destination – or call SkyMed directly during normal office hours (Mountain Standard Time) at 480 946 5188 or 1-800-475-9633.

Q2. Who is protected?

1. “Single” protection is available for individual travelers. “Family” protection includes your spouse or domestic partner and your young children up to 18 or 24 if they are full time students.

Q3. Do I need to call SkyMed before traveling outside my home country?

1. If you're traveling during the normal high season for travel to your destination, no. If you're traveling to your destination during its low season, do call SkyMed Member Services at the 800 number in the first question and let them know.

Q4. What if I'm going to a country not listed above in question 1?

1. Then you'll need (G.E.T.S) protection. If you have one of our Ultimate multiyear memberships, (G.E.T.S.) protection is included. On Annual (one-year) memberships, “G.E.T.S.” protection is an inexpensive option.

Q5. What's the difference between “short term” and “Annual” or multi-year protection?

1. Short-Term protection is intended for brief trips, say a week or two. Like Annual protection, it “Takes You Home®” to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you suffer a serious or critical illness or injury while traveling. Preexisting medical conditions are covered from day one with the short-term plan. It's inexpensive, only \$15/day for family protection. Remember, though, that Annual and Multi-year Ultimate memberships cost much less – only about \$1.35/day for family plans. Plus, they're guaranteed renewable without regard to advancing age or declining health. If you get a short-term plan, once it has expired, it is done, and you must reapply and requalify for another when you next travel. With Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, all you need do is renew before the renewal deadline – no need to reapply unless your membership has lapsed and the grace period has ended.

Q6. Is there an age limit for applications?

1. There is no age limit to apply. There's no age limit on renewals, either.

Q7. Can you cancel my protection at a certain age or if I get really sick?

1. Annual and multi-year Ultimate memberships are guaranteed renewable, as noted above. They will not be cancelled simply because you're a certain age or because your health has changed.

Q8. Will you raise the price of my membership at a certain age or if I get sick?

1. Once you're a SkyMed member, at renewal time you'll pay the same low renewal fees that everyone else with your type of membership pays. If you join at age 75 or older and purchase the X-Pat plan because you live in Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, or the Caribbean, the X-Pat plan is more expensive than the standard traditional (Annual or multiyear Ultimate) plan.

Q9. What exactly does SkyMed cover? Is it health insurance?

1. You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

This is the same list you'll find on the back of our current membership applications. SkyMed provides up to 18 benefits related to medical evacuation if you suffer a serious or critical illness or injury while traveling. It is not health insurance – in the “SkyMed universe,” SkyMed *Takes You Home*® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, where your health insurance works.

Q10. What about pre-existing conditions? Are they covered?

1. Yes: for short-term memberships, medevac protection (including items listed in the answer to Q9, above) is included for critical illnesses or injuries related to pre-existing and non-pre-existing conditions. For Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, pre-existing conditions are covered after a brief 90-day waiting period.

Q11. I want guaranteed renewable protection because of my age, but I'm going on a trip sooner than 90 days. What can we do about that?

1. Get our inexpensive short-term membership to cover your near-term trip, including medical evacuations for serious or critical illnesses or injuries due to pre-existing conditions. At the same time, apply for an Annual or Ultimate membership, to kick in once your near-term trip ends.

Q12. I'm not traveling for a while. When should I apply?

1. Get SkyMed before you need it – just like fire insurance. Since you don't know when you'll need it – and since health can change in a heartbeat thanks to falls, accidents, or other issues – it's always better to do it sooner rather than later. Beyond that, if you have pre-existing conditions and get SkyMed Annual or multiyear Ultimate medevac protection now, that 90-day exclusion period for pre-existing conditions protection may well be finished by the time you travel.

Q13. What kind of questions do you ask in your application? Do you send somebody to do a medical exam?

1. There's no medical exam. Our application is simple, asking about hospitalizations in the last six months, your current medical conditions, and your prescriptions – and on the prescriptions, all we need is their name, not dosage info. If you have a complex medical history, SkyMed may ask for a “HQ” (health questionnaire) to be completed by your doctor and submitted to SkyMed by fax. You should also have your passport number handy; we record it so it's there in case you need help outside your home country.

Q14. How long does it take before I hear whether I'm accepted?

1. Generally just a few business days, but it's always best to do your application early to ensure sufficient time for processing.

Q15. I have more questions. Where do I find the answers?

1. SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger, located in Massachusetts, will be happy to answer your questions. Call his private line at 508-747-8281.

Q16. Can I sign up online?

1. For fastest results, we always suggest you contact us directly. We've done thousands of applications and can whisk you through the process in minimal time and with minimal bother. To get additional information first and see some customer stories, check our site, www.skymed.com/jmb. But to sign up, always call 508-747-8281. The process normally takes about 10 minutes, if that.

Q17. Who can get SkyMed?

1. SkyMed is available to residents of the USA and Canada, and to X-Pats living in the countries listed in Q1. X-Pat protection is necessary if you live outside the US or Canada for six months or more, in aggregate, in any 12-month period. Always notify SkyMed if you move.

Q18. I have a rather deep medical history. Will SkyMed still accept me?

1. Although SkyMed accepts the vast majority of applications, others do get health questionnaires (see Q13) and occasionally some do not qualify. There is no cost to apply if your membership application cannot be accepted. A history of a heart attack or cancer several years ago or other maladies does not automatically signal any issues for SkyMed. Apply – there is nothing to lose (again, no charge if you're not accepted). And as we noted in Q6 there is no age limit to apply and no age limit to renew.

SkyMed World Headquarters business office operations:

We are following the White House Coronavirus Task Force '15 Days to Slow the Spread' guidelines released March 16th, 2020.

We have team members fully functional and working from home. We are all connected on line and have access to all programs

necessary for efficient operations. We have a seamless business operation whether employees are working in the office

or from home.

We are on duty 24 SEVEN for our members.

SkyMed Travel reservation # 1-800-568-8994 is open during regular business hours 8am to 5pm (MST). Messages can be left off hours.

Resources to help you:

Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov/travel

Canadian government updates www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html

National Institutes of Health (NIH) www.nih.gov

US Customs & Border Protection (CBP) www.cbp.gov

US State Department emergency assistance coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov

World Health Organization (WHO) www.who.int

SkyMed Travel reservations www.skymedtravel.com or email info@skymedtravel.com

SkyMed Member Services **1-480-946-5188** or **1-800-475-9633** or memberservices@skymed.com

Please do not hesitate to call or email us with your questions or concerns. We are here to help as much as we can.

Regular member

services are being conducted everyday.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in the SkyMed Member family wherever you are in this time of uncertainty.

Eleanore Klein, President

SkyMed Group of Companies

From JMB:

How to Contact Us or Sign Up

Jeff is a SkyMed Ambassador. Reach him directly at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time. You can also find him in Facebook Messenger through www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm or you can email him at jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the Subject **SkyMed**. He has an alternate Skype number too, 508-591-3483. It is always best to sign up by phone directly with Jeff at the numbers above – it's fast & easy.

From:

JMB Communications

Membership Services

support@jmbcommunications.com

31. Restaurant of the Week:

We are temporarily discontinuing selecting a new restaurant of the week until tourist flights to SXM resume, which hopefully can happen within the next several weeks.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

White Swan Chinese Restaurant (featured 3/16/20) SXM's very best, delicious, authentic food, attentive service, generous portions, and reasonable prices. We loved it...

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 3/9/20). Now open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining and very reasonable pricing.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 3/2/20). Open for lunch and dinner except Mon., when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

Sale & Pepe (featured 2/10/20) Cool location among breathtaking megayachts, cool decor, knowledgeable staff, and great menu, service, and food. Sale & Pepe is hitting its stride. Chef Davide Zagami stays mostly in the kitchen ensuring things go just right.

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 2/3/20) SkipJack's triumphantly reopened with an entirely new dining deck late in January, 2019. Great place - go! Great staff and superb food in a picture postcard lagoon setting.

La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, 1/27/20: Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, 1/6/20. Italian. Excellent food, many choices, busy, good specials. Many folks from Simpson Bay Resort dine here as well as many locals and lots of casino high-rollers. www.isolaristorante.com

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 12/30/19) **Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.**

Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 11/26/19 Mario's Bistro is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have. Go. Phenomenal dining at very reasonable prices. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 11/18/19) New bar, great staff, service, and phenomenal food. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Not to be missed.

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy (featured 11/11/19) Excellent pizza, and sizeable portions / reasonable prices on numerous other Italian specialties. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 7/8/19) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more. Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids.

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto) (7/8/19) is the new name of Sushiitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.

Mandarin Pan Asian, Port de Plaisance (featured 6/10/19) Excellent Pan-Asian dining including Japanese, Thai, and Chinese. Nice setting near the casino at Port de Plaisance.

Emilio's at Emilio Wilson Estate (featured 4/21/19) is as stupendous as it ever was, with spectacular dining in an equally spectacular restored building on the Emilio Wilson Estate. Ask to see the wine cellar and the museum. Open for lunch and dinner: not to be missed.

Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant, www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant 4/15/19. Just go....

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 3/11/19). Open for lunch and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 1/28/19) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late dining. Open morning until late night. Sports on TV. Karaoke some nights.

Dany's Smooth Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road toward Shore Pointe and turn near Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 1/20/2019) Parking, drinks, chairs and umbrellas, lolo-type food, and an all-over tan. What could possibly be better?

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 12/30/18) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16) Open.

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17) Reopened.

Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16) Club Orient was wrecked by Irma; rebuilding is planned. ETA not yet known.

St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge Reopened.

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17) Reopened.

Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15) Reopened.

You will find hundreds more restaurants from both the Dutch Side and French Side listed in the Files area of our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#). Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

32. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and you'll find about 25,000 SXM tourists who love SXM as much as you do.

Our site is the best place around to ask questions and get answers about SXM -- around the clock. Check it out.

33. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How

Our *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published since Spring 2014, including our amazing *2018 April Fools' Day parody* and many Special Editions.

Check it out [here](#). It has recently been thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is usually added just hours after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday).

Get The Current Low Price
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership
and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.
That's a 10-year price guarantee.
More benefits... same price.

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See skymed.com/jmb. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits

34. Are You Military, First Responder, or Nurse?

If you're U. S. Military with a DD214, you're able to get a Platinum-Status Military JMB Membership for \$16.99/year, the lowest we ever charge anyone. You get instant Platinum Status which is permanent as long as you're a JMB member plus 300+ SXM discounts and other benefits. All you do is pay for four years to start and renew in four-year increments (\$67.96). Nobody else pays so little -- our small way of expressing how grateful we all are for your service.

And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day. We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit everythingxsm.com and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership (the page still says Military). We'll also need a DD214 (or other police / fire / nursing ID) with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you all to our new best-of-all JMB Website Supporters Platinum Memberships.

35. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate

Get The Current Low Price
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership
and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.
That's a 10-year price guarantee.
More benefits... same price.

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See www.skymed.com/jmb, our new site, going live shortly.

36. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 4/27/20)

AMUSEMENTS

[Island Pedals Beer Cycle](#) (Philipsburg)

BOAT TOURS

Celine Charters (Enigma)

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

SXM Beer Brewery

Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

DOLLAR STORES

[All in One Place](#)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS:

[SkyMed International](#) (Covers the entire USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection available. Sold only to Americans, Canadians,

and X-Pats living in these countries.)

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Caribbean Gems](#)

[Majesty Jewelers](#)

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

[Alpha Jewels](#)

[JN Jewelers \(Maho under Jax, open late\)](#) NEW!

Jewels & Beyond (Maho) NEW!

[Shoppers Haven](#)

PARFUMERIE / PERFUME

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, www.tijon.com

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES: (See also VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES, below)

[Island Real Estate Team](#) is widely regarded as SXM's top real estate organization. A long-time JMB Sponsor, they offer both residential and commercial real estate in every price range. Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles what you seek: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

Century 21 St. Maarten (new)

Sunshine Properties (new)

RESORTS:

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

Baker's Suites

RESTAURANTS & BARS

[IZI](#)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

ISOLA

Frenchy Ludo's

SNOOPY'S

Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)

Melange (Port de Plaisance)

Pelican Bistro

Soggy Dollar Bar

Sale and Pepe

Topper's Restaurant

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

Pineapple Pete Restaurant

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant

Emilio's

Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar

Nowhere Special

ROXXY Bar / Restaurant (NEW)

LA ROSA (NEW)

NONNA ROSA (NEW)

LAZY LIZARD (NEW)

SWIMWEAR:

Endless Summer Swimwear, Philipsburg & Simpson Bay

VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES:

If you're interested in making a villa reservation (doing it with close friends can be fun and more economical than you'd imagine), contact our top recommended Villa rental/sale partners at [Island Real Estate Team](#). Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles villa rentals: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you're interested in a rental and you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*. Hundreds of villas are now online.

[Jennifer's Vacation Villas](#) has also joined us as a villa rental partner. *Jennifer's Vacation Villas* is a licensed management, real estate and villa rental company specializing in the rental of private villas and condos on both French and Dutch St. Maarten. Its proprietor, Jennifer, is a New Yorker who has been residing in St. Maarten for 40 years and whose goal is to provide guests with personal attention and to ensure that their vacations are memorable. Jennifer's Vacation Villas also does Weddings, Private Events, and any additional services including massages, boat trips, and private catering. Their aim is to make your vacation stay as comfortable, accommodating, and easy going as possible. Call 1 (721) 544-3107 | +1 (631) 546-7345. When you contact them, please tell them you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at blueparadiserealty.com.

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

[Monte Verde / Belle Vue \(new\)](#)

Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

Bright Path is already posting in our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#)

Updated 5/3/20

**Your Business
Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused
Website That Works.**

That's what we do:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

In business since the web began --

a unit of JMB Communications.

37. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

SXM Weekly News, our everythingSXM.com website and its Hurricane Center, and our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) — along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership — *are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our Sponsors.*

Our **JMB SXM Media Sponsorships** enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email susank@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". We'll get complete information to you quickly.Or just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger.

Tourism will soon return and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases beyond the shutdown. Contact us today for more information.

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):

[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)

Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

***2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale* are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.**

SECTION 5: For Members Only

A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsxm.com/secret

B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.

C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad:** See www.everythingsxm.com/secret. Your username and password are required.

SECTION 6: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 7/2017

See www.everythingsxm.com.

About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 4/17/17)

To unsubscribe, go here: www.sxmweeklynews.com. You **CAN NOT** unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret>. If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, contact support@jmbcommunications.com

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject *Free Newsletter Recipient,* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com.

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml (Updated 5/25/18)

5/4/20 #V3-1247 2:00 pm EDT 5/3/20 12.0

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